

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 PA-02
PRS-01 USIA-15 IO-14 PM-04 EUR-12 /080 W
-----091417Z 130639 /42

R 081010Z JUN 77

FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0829

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS ALEXANDRIA 0461

ROME FOR CIVAIR ATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GPS

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR ALEXANDRIA

REF: ALEXANDRIA 0029 AND 0036 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS 7 JUNE 1977, MINISTER OF TOURISM AND AVIATION MOHIB ESTINO ANNOUNCED PREVIOUS DAY THAT AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR ALEXANDRIA WOULD BE BUILT IN AMRIA. PROPOSED SITE IS APPROXIMATELY 20 MILES SOUTHWEST OF ALEXANDRIA JUST PAST BEGINNING OF DESERT ROAD TO CAIRO.

2. MINISTER SAID INITIAL PHASE WOULD BE ONLY SINGLE RUNWAY AND SIMPLE PASSENGER TERMINAL, FACILITIES TO BE EXPANDED LATER AS NEED ARISES.

3. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED NOUZHA AIRPORT ON SOUTHERN EDGE OF CITY NEAR BEGINNING OF AGRICULTURAL ROAD TO CAIRO WOULD BE REOPENED TO DOMESTIC AVIATION. ANTINOV AIRCRAFT ALREADY IN SERVICE ON OTHER INTERNAL RUNS WILL BE USED AND THE MINISTRY PLANS TO PURCHASE FOUR OTHER PLANES FOR THE DOMESTIC LINES.

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4. NILE VALLEY AVIATION COMPANY, ONLY PRIVATE AIR SERVICE IN EGYPT (REFTELS), WILL BE PERMITTED OPERATE TWO FLIGHT DAILY BETWEEN CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA.

5. MINISTER MADE SPECIAL NOTE OF FACT NOUZHA WILL BE OPEN TO FOREIGN AIRCRAFT "ONLY IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES."

6. COMMENT: NOUZHA, FORMER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR ALEXANDRIA, WAS TAKEN OVER BY MILITARY AFTER 1967 ARAB-ISRAEL WAR. SINCE 1974 USG HAS SEVERAL TIMES BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION USE AIRPORT FOR VIP VISITORS. OVER LAST YEAR-AND-A-HALF SEVERAL AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES WERE GRANTED PERMISSION TO USE NOUZHA FOR FREQUENT FLIGHTS BY SUPPLY AND PASSENGER PLANES AND HELICOPTERS SERVICING OFFSHORE RIGS.

7. BECAUSE OF EXPENSE AND TIME NEEDED BUILD PROPOSED AMRIA AIRPORT, LOCAL BUSINESSMEN ARE STILL PRESSING FOR SHARED USE OF EXISTING MILITARY AIRPORT AT GIANACLIS, 50 MILES FROM ALEXANDRIA, JUST OFF DESERT ROAD. GIANACLIS CAN ACCOMODATE BOEING 707-SIZE PLANES (WHICH NOUZHA CANNOT). HOWEVER, "OPENING" OF ANY AIRPORT FOR ALEXANDRIA HAS BEEN SO OFTEN PROMISED OVER LAST THREE YEARS, ALL INTERESTED PARTIES ARE WAITING TO SEE IF IT REALLY HAPPENS.
CHASE

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